

**CITY OF RENO**  
**DOWNTOWN ALCOHOL**  
**ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES**  
**May 6, 2010**

**Members**

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**I. ROLL CALL**

Ms. Ross called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. She then asked the secretary to take the roll call.

Present: Committee Members; Roberta Ross, Darrell Clifton, Mike Thomas, David Gideon Silverman, Kevin McGehee, Charles Shapiro, Lloyd Jay Wilson, Pat Ferguson, and Kenneth Brown  
Alternates: Remi Jourdan

Also Present: Lt. Bill Rulla, Lt. Shannon Wiecking, Det. Greg Meister, Jacqueline O'Malley, Deputy City Attorney Randy Munn, Jerry Daughhettee, Mike Heitzman, Barbara DiCianno, Michael Malody, Tray Abney, Dave Bennett, Eddie Lorton, Marshall Stevenson, Jon Reberg, Shana Catlett, Brandon Deriso.

Absent:

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM April 1, 2010**

Ms. Ross asked if there were a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Wilson made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Clifton seconded the motion. The motion passed.

**III. PUBLIC COMMENT\***

There were no public comments.

**IV. MEMBERS AND STAFF REPORTS\***

**A. Chairman Report**

Ms. Ross said she had received the Bylaws and would present them for approval by the City Council. She said today they would be discussing their goals and objectives.

She then suggested the members read up about the shooting that had occurred on Saturday, May 1<sup>st</sup> on West 2<sup>nd</sup> Street saying incidents like that were exactly what this committee was all about.

She then asked the members of the public to introduce themselves.

**B. Police Report**

**1. Give presentation to include map, stats and alcohol related issues affecting downtown.**

Lt. Rulla introduced Lt. Shannon Wiecking saying she would be the new Police Department liaison for this committee after the shift bid in June of this year.

Lt. Rulla introduced Det. Greg Meister, from SIG, saying he handled the citations on businesses and any suspension revocations that they need handled and he was their liaison with the Business License Department.

Lt. Rulla then gave a power point presentation that included types of incidents the police encountered downtown, pictures of the alleys being used as bathrooms, maps showing the locations of businesses with alcohol licenses, and locations depicting calls for service. Also included was a list of past problem solving ideas and a list of areas where he felt improvement was needed. See binder for a copy of this power point.

Det. Meister explained that they would look into suspending the license of a bar for selling alcohol to a minor on their second offense and for a package liquor type business it would be for selling alcohol to a minor on their first offense. He said it could take as long as four months from the date of the offense to the actual hearing date and that was because paperwork had to be completed and passed through all the appropriate departments, and the business owner had to be contacted and then allowed ten days to respond. He said if the offense was not about the sales of alcohol, say fights in their club, then they had to have documented proof that they addressed that problem with the owner of the business, and educated them on their rights. As an example of how long this could take he mentioned one business he had been working on for the past year where he had put together a sixteen page report with forty two significant incidents and it was still not resolved.

The members and public were in agreement that it was everyone's problem and they needed to work together to find ways to solve the problem without hurting the businesses. Some solutions that were discussed:

- Mandatory and or staggered closing times and the problems that may create
- Attaching a physical address instead of the business name to the call for service
- A possible alternate Reserves program to replace the recent loss of Recruits
- Targeting one type of business was unfair and created additional problems
- Re-Development of the downtown now means they have to find a balance

Police report concluded.

**V. OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business to discuss.

**VI. NEW BUSINESS**

**1. Verify that an alternate for the Downtown Police Special Assessment District has been appointed by the City Council.**

The secretary had no notification of anyone being appointed. This will be moved to Old Business.

## **2. Members present their goals and objectives for this committee.**

Mr. Ferguson's Goal was:

To ensure that alcohol sales and consumption in "the downtown area" are conducted in a manner that contributes to an enjoyable, clean and safe environment for residents, business persons and patrons alike.

Mr. Ferguson's Objectives were:

- To identify areas in which alcohol license holders employ procedures that minimize problems, criminal activity, unclean business environments and otherwise add to the attractiveness of the downtown residential and entertainment area.
- Similarly, identify problem areas in which some or all alcohol license holders contribute to lawlessness, unclean and unsafe residential and business environments.
- Develop a code of conduct in which all alcohol license holders are asked to voluntarily sign and abide by common sense rules to promote safe, clean and lawful activities on their premises. This code will have no sanctions either for failure to sign or, if signed, failure to completely adhere to the code.
- Develop no less than six recommendations to offer the Reno City Council through amendments to existing business license provisions, new license provisions or non-statutory initiatives that will fulfill the committee's goal.

Mr. Shapiro's Goal was:

To measurably improve safety, cleanliness, and reduce crime, while improving the overall quality of life in the downtown area...for the benefit of the downtown residents, business owners, and area residents...and to enhance a positive image of Downtown Reno as a safe and enjoyable place with multiple attractions, in order to improve public perception and increase tourism and visitation to the area.

Mr. Shapiro's Objectives were:

It is my general understanding that the committee was formed in response to what is widely perceived as excessively unsafe and destructive occurrences and incidents mostly (but not all) during the early morning hours and mostly (but not all) in specific areas, near night clubs and bars. Therefore, I think the objectives of the committee should include:

- To evaluate the potential impacts, if any, that the bar/alcohol related businesses may cause by virtue of their business practices.
- To evaluate the publics- (bar patrons) habits, patterns, and contributions, if any, to these issues.
- To evaluate the City's response, resources, and approach to these issues.
- To evaluate any legal or political restraints that may be obstacles to implementing more effective policy.
- To build consensus towards potential solutions to these issues.
- And ultimately, to make realistic and actionable recommendation(s) to the City Council that will assist the City, the Police Department, and the local stakeholders to measurably improve the safety, reputation, and quality of life in Downtown Reno.

Mr. Silverman said his main goal was to make sure their solutions were fair to everyone involved. That they did not just target one problem area and then affect everything else around it. He compared this to speeding saying if you exceeded the speed limit then there was a penalty and after a certain point you would lose your privilege to

drive. Mr. Silverman said he wanted to make sure he himself was doing the right thing and was being held accountable to the same standards. However, he said if there were penalties to be levied then they should be levied with a heavy hand.

Mr. Clifton said he felt they all agreed with the over goal and Mr. Ferguson said it best. He said for his objectives he would like to begin with Lt. Rulla's list of suggestions and then add the committees to it and take it from there. Mr. Clifton said he was especially curious and interested to get the input from the bar owners themselves to see how they would like to self regulate before this committee did anything. He said even though the process was not a great process he still felt that everyone should be held accountable for their actions.

Mr. Wilson said his goal was to collect information, get advice and comments. He said his objective was to be fair for everyone and have an actionable goal and be effective.

Mr. McGehee said his goal was to get a clear definition of the Reno Municipal Statutes regarding levels of sound (music), especially now with the mixed use codes downtown. Secondly he said since it was going to require a collaboration and cooperation between the three entities: the police, the residents, and the business owners then they should do a bi-monthly meet and greet at the different businesses in a more relaxed atmosphere.

Mr. Brown said his goal was to come up with a solution to mitigate the problems occurring downtown and not to push it elsewhere in the community. He said they needed to come up with something that was efficient, equitable, and economical. Mr. Brown said they were not there to destroy people's livelihoods, they want the businesses to succeed and in doing so create a vibrant downtown. He said they need input from everyone: the homeowners, the business owners, the casinos, the restaurants, bars, markets, everybody and then come up with recommendations for the City Council that helps everyone.

Ms. Ross said everyone had great goals and it would be great if they could just arrest everyone who acted badly. However, she said right now they had to be concerned that the Police Force had been reduced and that was a big issue. She said other objectives she would like to look at were:

- Special Events, especially alcohol events like the Wine Walks and Beer Crawls and how could they make them the safest and the cleanest events.
- She would like to look at stats from other areas similar to Reno and what their Ordinances and Codes are; like their hours of operation and policies and procedures.
- Set standards
- The Re-Development area was like a three legged stool; with businesses, retail, and residential and all three of those areas were needed if downtown Reno was to succeed.
- Tiered licensing and tiered closings.

Mr. Thomas said he would just re-iterate everything that had been said. He said they would also all have to agree that they would disagree in order to resolve these issues which

were city wide. Mr. Thomas said this committee could do a lot of good and help to make downtown Reno safe and better and eliminate the bad publicity.

Mr. Brown suggested they look into other Alcohol related committees from the past and see what they were all about.

Ms. Ross said Lt. Rulla had given her a copy of the Spokane Police Department's Good Neighbor Agreement which she felt dialed into the problems they were encountering and she felt it would be a good idea if the members reviewed it and then be ready to discuss it at the next meeting.

Ms. Ross then asked that each member read up on the Ordinance's which had been previously e-mailed to them so they could familiarize themselves with them and suggested they bring them to every meeting so they could refer to them as needed.

Mr. Clifton suggested that maybe they meet more than once a month in order for them to meet the council's requirements. Ms. Ross asked how the other members felt about that, whether their schedules would allow for it, and would every two weeks work. She then suggested they meet again on Thursday, May 20<sup>th</sup> from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. Mr. Clifton made a motion to approve that date and time. Mr. Thomas seconded the motion. The motion passed. All were in favor. Ms. Ross said at their next regularly scheduled meeting on June 3<sup>rd</sup> they would discuss and vote on an additional meeting date which would be prior to their next monthly meeting which was scheduled for July 1.

#### **VII. NEXT MEETING DATE/LOCATION**

2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. May 20, 2010 at One East 1<sup>st</sup> Street, (New City Hall)  
*room to be decided later.*

#### **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Thomas made the motion to adjourn. Mr. Silverman seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.